

**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Immigration Committee
March 6, 2018 at 10:30 AM
Delaware State Police Museum, Dover, DE**

- I. The meeting was called to order at 10:38 AM. In attendance were Blanca Sandoval (NAMI Delaware), Gloria Smith (DCJ), Adrienne Owen (DSP), Maribel Perez (La Esperanza), Gilberte Pierre (CLASI), Laura Graham (CLASI/Committee Chair), Sabdi Vazquez (CLASI), Kelly Head (CLASI), Carolyn Becker (WPD Victims Services), Emily Houde (CLASI), Akilah Seeney (DSP Victim Services), Pedro Torres (NCCPD), Amy Canady (NCCPD), Adriana Ochoa (LACC) and Maite Aros (CHILD inc). Participating by phone were Bianca Martinez, Belkys Sanchez and Maria Aguilar from the Family Counseling Center.
DVCC Staff: Moe Monagle, Natasha Smith and Aimee String
- II. Minutes from the December 12, 2017 meeting were approved with amendments.
- III. New Business
 - a. Natasha Smith of the DVCC attended the meeting to discuss a recommendation from FIRT (Fatal Incident Review Team).
 - i. FIRT would like to see a needs assessment completed with members of the immigrant community as it relates to barriers in seeking services. The purpose of the assessment would be to make sure that we are addressing gaps and not making any assumptions on behalf of the immigrant community. There is very little police interaction with immigrant victims. A needs assessment would help to identify why immigrant victims are not reaching out for help and how they learn about available services.
 - ii. The committee conversed about how a needs assessment could be completed. It was noted that addressing the immigrant community in this type of work is often difficult due to a lack of trust.
 - iii. The needs assessment could consist of a focus group, survey and/or individual interview.
 - iv. The committee agreed that a needs assessment is worthwhile and something the committee would like to support. Laura Graham (committee chair) will address the need at the next DVCC Quarterly Meeting.
 - b. ICE in Courthouses
 - i. Previously (2011) there was a memo that prevented ICE from approaching individuals in sensitive locations (hospitals, schools, houses of worship, public religious ceremonies (ie: funerals, weddings) and public demonstrations. There were exceptions if a person

posed an imminent threat or national security risk, immediate pursuit of felon/person who poses public danger or risk of destruction of property.

- ii. New policy: Memo on Enforcement in Courthouses (1/10/18) states that Enforcement actions in Courthouses will include actions against specific, targeted aliens, which include: persons with criminal convictions, gang members, national security or public threat, individuals ordered removed/deported but failed to depart or re-entered. Enforcement actions may include collateral arrests. The memo states that activities should avoid areas of the courthouse dedicated to non-criminal proceedings.
- iii. The new policy is of concern because it allows for more discretion. Clients do not want to go into courts because they are scared. Less people are seeking services. Advocates cannot guarantee that ICE will not be in the courthouse. It has not happened in Delaware yet to the best of the committee's knowledge.

c. Public Charge

- i. Public charge is a person who is primarily dependent on the government for subsistence (ie: cash assistance (GA, TANF, SSI or LTC Medicaid). A person found to be a public charge can be denied admission to the US or AOS/LPR. Overall circumstances are considered.
- ii. Current administration informed OMB that it plans to propose new regulations and change the policy regarding the meaning and application of "Public Charge". There has been a leaked draft of an unsigned executive order but USCIS has not published proposed changes to the regulations. The leaked draft expands the scope of benefits considered in determining a public charge. Benefits considered would include: Medicaid/CHIP, SNAP/Food stamps, WIC, LIHEAP, Subsidized housing, head start and financial assistance through the ACA marketplace. They can consider use of the programs by the alien/applicant or family members including USC children.
 - 1. It is important to note that this would not be proactively applied.
 - 2. There are some exemptions/persons protected by statute including, refugees/asylees, T and U Visa holders, VAWA Self Petitioners, SIJS, certain parolees, TPS and DACA and Natz applicants.
- iii. Before the regulations are adopted there will be a comment period.

IV. Old Business

a. Resource Guide

- i. Aimee circulated copies of the revised Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence: Guide for Advocates and thanked everyone for the comments and revisions.
- ii. Also circulated was the draft of the accompanying resource list. The resource list is still in draft form. All changes should be e-mailed to Aimee String (aimee.string@state.de.us).

- b. DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals): If you have DACA, you can continue to file. Refer clients to immigration attorneys. You do not want to clients to file on their own.

V. Agency Reports

- a. Pedro Torres is now at NCC Police. They are expanding Victims Services. They will have to bilingual staff members (Pedro and Carmen). Pedro can be reached at PJTorres@NCCDE.org. or 395-8115.
- b. Adriana Ochoa circulated a flier about the Victims of Crime Program. She is hoping to get more information out to the public about the program. The program is located in Wilmington and Middletown.
- c. La Esperanza is hiring a bilingual victim's advocate. The advocate will handle non-domestic violence cases.
- d. St Paul's Victim Services program is growing. They are doing educational work with churches and school groups (including one for teachers and one for students).

VI. Next Meeting

Due to a conflict the May meeting will be rescheduled for May 1st at CLASI in Dover at 10:30 AM.